

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01510 010900Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4924

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1546

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, LY, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MEETS QADHAFI

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA TURKISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALPASIAN TURKES MET NOVEMBER 29 WITH COLONEL QADHAFI IN THE COLONEL'S AZZIZA BARRACKS HEADQUARTERS AND DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KORUTURK. MEETING REPORTEDLY WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY LIBYAN SECRETARY FOR LIAISON TAHA BEN AMIR SHARIF, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS BUREAU OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AHMED SHAHATI AND THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR. PRIOR TO HIS QADHAFI MEETING TURKES MET WITH LIBYAN MINISTERS OF HOUSING AND EDUCATION.

2. SINCE ARRIVAL OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NOVEMBER 27, LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE. LIBYAN NEWS SERVICE HAS ATTRIBUTED TO TURKES STATEMENTS WHICH EXPRESSED TURKISH SUPPORT FOR LIBYA'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES AND PARTICULARLY SUPPORT OF "WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RE-

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PORTEDLY CONDEMNED "THE ZIONIST, RACIST ENTITY AND DEMANDED ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB LAND." HE ALSO ALLEGEDLY CALLED FOR RESPECT FOR THE HOLY LAND OF ISLAM, DENOUNCED "ANY PLAN FOR SURRENDER OR CONCESSIONS REGARDING THE HOLY PLACES OR ARAB OCCUPIED LANDS," AND INDICATED THAT TURKEY IS "STUDYING RESULTS OF SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM."

3. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST COINCIDENCE OF NOVEMBER 29
TURKISH RADIO COMMENTARY MONITORED FBIS (291046Z)
WHICH SUGGESTS THAT TURKES VISIT TO LIBYA REFLECTS A
DISCERNIBLE SHIFT OF HIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY
TOWARDS LIBYA AND IRAQ. ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTARY,
TURKEY, WHICH ALREADY RECEIVES THE MAJOR PART OF ITS
OIL FROM LIBYA AND IRAQ, IS GROWING INCREASINGLY DE-
PENDENT UPON THEM. COMMENTARY CLAIMS THAT TURKEY'S
FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE DOES NOT ALLOW IT TO PAY
FOR THIS OIL. CONSEQUENTLY, TURKEY IS WORRIED THAT
OIL MAY BE SHUT OFF AND THEREFORE IS SHIFTING ITS
FOREIGN POLICY TO ACCOMMODATE LIBYA AND IRAQ.

4. IF TURKES' STATEMENTS WERE ACCURATELY REPORTED
BY LOCAL MEDIA, THEN COMMENTARY,S ANALYSIS MIGHT BE
PLAUSIBLE. WE OF COURSE DEFER TO JUDGMENT OF EMBASSY
ANKARA. LIBYAN MEDIA HOWEVER FOND OF EXAGGERATING OR
DISTORTING REMARKS OF VISITING DIGNITARIES. MEETING
WAS QADHAFI'S FIRST REPORTED PUBLIC FUNCTION IN OVER
A WEEK.

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